

GLYPHOSATE

BACKGROUND:

- EPA initiated registration review for the widely used herbicide glyphosate (RoundUp) in 2009.
- In 2015, an International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) report classified glyphosate as “probably carcinogenic to humans.” All other international fora, including all regulatory bodies, have concluded that glyphosate is unlikely to be carcinogenic.
- As part of registration review, EPA released draft human health and ecological risk assessments for glyphosate in December 2017. EPA’s assessment concluded that glyphosate is not likely to be carcinogenic to humans.
- In March 2018, EPA opened a 60-day public comment period on draft human health and ecological risk assessments with supporting documents for glyphosate.
- EPA received 250,000 public comments on the draft assessment. The majority of comments are from mass mailing campaigns; approximately 200 are substantive comments being reviewed. EPA is scheduled to publish the proposed interim registration review decision in 2019. The proposed interim registration review decision will outline any proposed mitigation measures to reduce risk, if any are needed.

KEY POINTS:

- EPA stands by our 2016 draft human health risk assessment conclusion that glyphosate is not likely to be carcinogenic to humans.
- EPA received multiple congressional inquiries within the last year from both committees and individual members, primarily on the cancer re-evaluation of glyphosate and EPA’s timeline for glyphosate registration review, including a House Science committee hearing in February 2018.
- Under a settlement agreement with the Center for Biological Diversity, EPA is scheduled to complete a biological evaluation on glyphosate by 2020 and, if necessary, initiate an Endangered Species Act consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service by 2020.
- EPA’s extensive review of available data does not support recent claims that glyphosate, the active ingredient of Round Up, found in cereal (and other foods containing commodities like wheat and oats) is cause for concern. The trace amounts of pesticide residue in cereal (or other food) found in the Environmental Working Group’s August 2018 article are considerably lower than the limits established by EPA and do not pose risks of concern to children or anyone else.
- Some private litigants have successfully brought forth suits relating glyphosate exposure to their cancer diagnosis. We extend empathy to these individuals. EPA does not comment on private litigation.

TALKING POINTS:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)